

RAILWAY STATIONS.

PROMINENT FACTORS IN DEVELOPING TOWNS.

Two of Nature's Fairest Gifts for Progress—Basis For the Strongest Option of a Community—Lack of Public Spirit Indicates Death of Enterprise.

One of the first methods a community has of expressing its determination to reach out for self improvement is in the interest it takes in the condition of the public park, be it large or small. The public park is the central point from which every form of public and private improvement affecting property usually radiates. If the public park is neglected and has run to weeds, there is scarcely any need to look elsewhere for proof of the absence of community pride of existence. Decadence, lack of private enterprise, absence of nearly everything that goes toward making a community comfortable and beautiful, are noticeable on every hand. Property values in such a community are necessarily low. Taxation is burdensome. Progress is slow. Prosperity is beaten back, and the outlook all along the line is disengaging. Such a place is shamed by newcomers to the state. There is no increase of population or of wealth. The community is retrograding instead of progressing.

In all the smaller towns and cities and villages the railroad station cuts a much larger figure in the general prosperity of the place than most people at first thought are willing to admit. It is a great factor nevertheless in a community's development. The railroad station is the first evidence that the stranger from abroad has of the presence of the town, village or city which it serves. There he gets his first impression of the community. If the railroad depot is burdensome and its grounds are well kept, laid out in flower beds and shrubbery, the first impression which the visitor receives of that community is a favorable one, and it sticks through all his subsequent experiences with it.

"It is rather curious that Teunison, in his first appearance at court, exactly followed Wordsworth's precedent. He dressed as Rogers', and wore the old post's court suit just as Wordsworth had done. 'I well remember,' says Sir Henry Taylor, 'a dinner in St. James's place, when the question arose whether Samuel's suit was spacious enough for Alfred.' But the laureate managed to make it do.

Of Teunison merely as laureate, there is fortifying little to say. He did not write more in his official capacity. 'The 'Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington' would probably have been written even if Teunison had never had anything to do with the lord-chancellor. It was not because he was a laureate that Teunison was a poet. His other pieces in royal weddings and so forth, are slight and unimportant.—Temple Bar.

HERE'S A QUEER ARGUMENT.

How an English Rector Defends His Visit to a Theatre.

A traveling theatrical company recently arrived on an extended visit to Kilmaronk, an important colliery center in Derbyshire. The rector, the Rev. F. J. Mastin, a well known and highly popular clergyman, visited the theater. For this he was criticized by some of his parishioners. He has therefore issued the following letter to his flock:

My Dear People—As some concern has been expressed by some of you because I have patronized and attended the Queen's theater, now staying in this village, it may be well for me to give you a few words to say so as to remove any misconception you may have about my action. I am giving every opportunity to all in this parish to be brought under the influence of the Holy Spirit. A theatrical company comes into this place with every probability of staying some time. They do not come here to break either the laws of God or man. Their profession is quite a lawful one. Now if every one who is responsible keeps away from these places what will they become? Centers of sin! What fault is there, then, that it is the fault of the rest of the company who come to sinise the people? I say it is not. It is the fault of those persons who think themselves too respectable to go to such a place? The proprietor of a company like this here now is only too thankful to have the help of good people to raise his performances and make it a more refined and improved character. What a pity it is that some of our people are such cowards that they will not stand up for their rights instead of running to me. If I see doing wrong, why don't the others stand and tell me and teach me better, instead of throwing their sneers out at those who can't help what I do? "He's a nice sort of leader!" They say, but those who say these things are not those who would be led anywhere else. Another thing they say is, "He would not do it, only he wants some money out of them." This is one of those thumping lies that people like to say about a person. Well, let them say it. It won't hurt the person, and it pleases them.

—St. James Gazette.

Dolls Brought Happiness to the Dying.

Margaret Bottome, in "Heart to Heart Talks" in the Ladies' Home Journal, relates this pathetic incident of her ministrations to the sick: "Just before I left Europe last autumn a great box came to me filled with dolls, all dressed, and the request came with it that I should have them sent to a children's hospital. There is a hospital in the city of New York for consumptive children, as well as for older people with the same disease, and I gave the dolls to a physician who is connected with that hospital. He said afterward he wished I could have seen the children trooping toward him, each carrying a doll. But the most touching thing to me was what the nurse told the doctor—that after every child was furnished with a doll there was a number left, and the poor woman dying with consumption asked if each might have a doll. They all wanted them, and to each the dolls were given, and the nurse said she could not have dreamed of their being such a comfort to those poor sick women. There were just enough dolls for each to have one. Ah, who can tell the thoughts they had of earlier days, when they took a little we once close to their heart, as they now took these little dolls?"

The Empire of Russia.

During the eighteenth century no less than four emperors held sway over Russia, and if perhaps the throne was unjustly usurped in more than one instance it can at least be said of all of them that they reigned more wisely than the emperors of that period and that they have left names more famous than those of their male predecessors and successors. With all her many faults Catherine the Great proved a wise and powerful monarch, and much that disfigured her history may be forgotten, seeing that she almost totally abolished the custom of subjecting all Russian prisoners to a system of ghastly torture, besides repealing many other cruel and barbarous laws.

Twenty years ago Theodore Parker predicted that before the end of the century Kansas would have 1,000,000 inhabitants and be worth \$1,000,000,000. The prediction has been more than fulfilled already. Kansas has 1,300,000 people and is worth \$2,000,000,000.

Superior and Duluth.

Fifteen years ago the combined population of Superior and Duluth was less than 4,000. Ten years ago Superior's commerce was less than \$500,000 a year. In 1890 it was \$60,000,000. Five years ago Superior had a flour mill. Now it is the second flour milling point in the world. We can't get everything at once. It takes time to buy capital.

Tales of Advertising.

You never know how many people want your wares until you commence advertising them.—Princeton's Sat.

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The fancy leaved cacti have warm, partial shade and protection from winds.

Progress in Roadmaking.

RAILROADS AND WAGON ROADS.

A Thorough System of Good Roads Would Benefit Railroads.

Many of the railroad companies of the land have expressed their friendly interest in the good roads movement by offering to transport materials and machinery for the improvement of highways at reduced rates.

This evening liberality of the railroad companies is merely a display of good sense and good business, remarks The L. A. W. Bulletin. But the incentive for their acts, like "the flowers that



SUPPORT FOR BERRY BUSHES.

Post and Wire Trellis for Blackberry and Raspberry Bushes in Home Gardens.

Where raspberries and blackberries are grown on a large scale for market the expense and labor involved by the use of even the simplest form of trellis or frame must prevent the grower from attempting to do more than keep the



TRELLIS FOR BERRY BUSHES.

plants within bounds by heroic pruning. And this usually answers the purpose very well.

In the home garden, however, we always pay somewhat greater attention to convenience and neat appearance than in the field. If our garden patch is large, we may content ourselves with setting a simple stake to each bush and tying the latter to it somewhat loosely, or we may make a trellis having only single strands of wire, to which the bushes must be tied, after the fashion of the one shown in the first cut. This, by the way, also illustrates how plants of the London, claimed by some to be one of the best of red raspberries, appears when supported by the trellis.

Much more effective, though not quite

so cheaply constructed, is the trellis that confines each row of bushes within two lines of wire or laths fastened to stakes set along each side of the row. American Gardening, from

which the foregoing is taken, also furnishes the sketch and description of this latter trellis made with post and crosspiece: Cut the posts 5 feet long, sharpen them and drive them 16 feet apart in the row. Nail a piece of lath 18 inches long just 3 feet from the ground and saw a notch at each end of the crosspiece. When the wires are made fast and moderately tight, then lift them into the notches. This trellis will hold a man without tying.

Under present conditions railroad traffic in many sections of the country depends on every change of the weather

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On ordinary roads the cost of hauling

produce to the local railway station is several times as much as the railroad charges for conveying it to the metropolis or seaboard.

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